



● ● ● 12th Triple i

Intuition, Imagination and Innovation in Suicidology Conference

Virtual Conference
25th–27th May 2021

Programme and Abstract Book



Slovenski
center za
raziskovanje
samomora



International Association
for Suicide Prevention



deleofund onlus

Intuition, Imagination and Innovation in Suicidology Conference
12th Triple i | Virtual Conference | 25th–27th May 2021
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E-ISSN 2712-5467

Edited by · Diego de Leo and Vita Poštuvan

Editorial Board · Diego De Leo, Vita Poštuvan, Wendy Orchard,

Wendy Cliff, and Vanja Gomboc

Cover Photo, Design and Layout · Alen Ježovnik

Published by · University of Primorska Press

Titov trg 4, 6000 Koper

www.hippocampus.si

Editor in Chief · Jonatan Vinkler

Managing Editor · Alen Ježovnik

Koper · 2021

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*The publication has been co-financed by the Slovenian Research Agency,
project Alive? Alive! Research and Prevention of Suicide
(grant number P3-0384 FAMNIT).*

Electronic Edition

<https://www.hippocampus.si/ISBN/978-961-293-068-4.pdf>

<https://www.hippocampus.si/ISBN/978-961-293-069-1/index.html>

<https://doi.org/10.26493/978-961-293-068-4>



Kataložni zapis o publikaciji (CIP) pripravili
v Narodni in univerzitetni knjižnici v Ljubljani

COBISS.SI-ID = 63383811

ISBN 978-961-293-068-4 (pdf)

ISBN 978-961-293-069-1 (html)

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Welcome Address

Dear intuitive, imaginative and innovative guest,

We are pleased to welcome you to the Triple i Virtual Conference, an event hosted by UP IAM Slovene Centre for Suicide Research, De Leo Fund Onlus and International Association for Suicide Prevention.

The conference is an international annual event organized by the Slovene Centre for Suicide Research (Andrej Marušič Institute, University of Primorska) in collaboration with FAMNIT (University of Primorska). By holding a conference, we aim to raise awareness and knowledge about suicide and thus contribute to the development of suicide prevention and postvention activities.

In recent years, the conference has developed into a platform for fruitful discussions among distinguished experts in suicide research and prevention, interacting with young and perspective suicidologists and other mental health professionals.

Due to the current epidemiological situation, staff from various organizations have joined together to prepare a virtual version of the traditional Triple i conference, as we want to enable eager participants to listen to and interact with world-renowned suicidologists. Sharing knowledge and experiences related to the field of suicidal behaviour is all the more relevant in these new and challenging circumstances. And participating in the virtual conference enables just that – the opportunity to listen to new and innovative findings in the field of suicidology while connecting and exchanging knowledge with participants from countries around the world.

The Triple i 2021 programme covers topics such as suicide during the epidemic, suicide prevention in adolescents, exposure to trauma and suicide, the relationship between media and suicidal behaviour, etc.; thus, addressing theory, research, prevention, and interventions in suicidology. Each lecture will be followed by a discussion in which participants are invited to share their views. Existing difficulties in both research and clinical work will be specifically addressed.

Let the Triple i Conference be an opportunity for you to express and practice your *intuition*, *imagination* and *innovative ideas*.

Prof. Diego De Leo and Dr. Vita Poštuvan, Chairs

Wendy Orchard, Wendy Cliff, and Vanja Gomboc, Organising Committee

Organizers

Slovene Centre for Suicide Research (UP IAM SCSR)

Slovene Centre for Suicide Research was founded in 2011 within Andrej Marušič Institute, University of Primorska. The initiative to establish an independent unit within the Institute was taken by Prof. Diego De Leo and a group of former colleagues of the late Prof. Andrej Marušič in memory of his work and with the purpose of continuing it.

Research and prevention of suicide are addressed as crucial activities of clinical-research work. The Centre is involved in international and national projects and is the initiator of numerous innovative approaches in suicidology. The Centre's vision is to provide high-quality research for better understanding of suicidal behaviour, thus contributing to suicide prevention, intervention and postvention.

You are welcome to read more about us at zivziv.si!

De Leo Fund Onlus

De Leo Fund Onlus was founded with the desire to provide a source of support for parents, children, relatives and friends who are suddenly faced with the death of a loved one due to traffic accidents, workplace accidents, suicide, natural disasters, crime. At such times, human and professional support can play a role of tremendous importance in alleviating the pain and isolation that the bereaved of these deaths inevitably suffer.

Parallel to the care activities, the De Leo Fund organizes training courses, meetings and seminars. Through scientific projects, the De Leo Fund collaborates with universities and other institutions to carry out research programs and educational activities in the field of suicide and traumatic bereavement issues in children, adolescents and adults.

You are welcome to read more about us at <https://www.deleofund.org/>!

The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP)

The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) is a Non-Governmental Organization and the largest international organization dedicated to suicide prevention. It was founded in 1960 by the late Professor Erwin Ringel and Dr. Norman Farberow and now includes professionals and volunteers from 77 countries.

The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) is dedicated to preventing suicidal behaviour, alleviating its effects, and providing a forum for academics, mental health professionals, crisis workers, volunteers and suicide survivors.

You are welcome to read more about us at <https://www.iasp.info/>



Diego de Leo



Vita Poštuvan



Wendy Orchard



Wendy Cliff



Vanja Gomboc

Programme Outline

Tuesday, 25th May 2021

Session 1: 9.00–11.00

- 9.00 Prof. Rory O'Connor, 'Covid, Psychology and Suicide Risk'
- 10.00 Prof. Jo Robinson: 'Youth Suicide Prevention across Settings'

Session 2: 14.00–16.00

- 14.00 Prof. Vita Poštuvan: 'Bereavement in Difficult Times'
- 15.00 Prof. Maurizio Pompili: 'Mental Pain in Suicidal Individuals of the New Millennium'

Wednesday, 26th May 2021

Session 3: 9.00–11.00

- 9.00 Prof. Annette Erlangsen, 'Physical Disorders and Suicide'
- 10.00 Prof. Murad Khan, 'LMICs, Pandemic & Suicide'

Session 4: 14.00–16.00

- 14.00 Dr. Silvia Pelàez, 'Suicide in Pandemia'
- 15.00 Ms. Nina Krohne & Ms. Meta Lavrič, 'Trauma and Suicide: The Impact of Direct and Secondary Exposure'

Thursday, 27th May 2021

Session 5: 9.00–11.00

- 9.00 Prof. Thomas Niederkrotenthaler, 'Media and Suicide'
- 10.00 Prof. Lai Fong Chan, 'Covid-19 Era Healthcare-Worker Suicide Prevention'

Session 6: 14.00–16.00

- 14.00 Ms. Vanja Gomboc, 'Public Response to Media Reporting on Suicide'
- 15.00 Prof. Diego De Leo, 'Nursing Homes or Besieged Castles: Suicide Temptation in the Covid-19 World'

Please note that all sessions times will be live at UTC+2.

Covid, Psychology and Suicide Risk

Rory O'Connor

Prof. Rory O'Connor has a long-standing interest in suicide research and prevention; he has been working in this area since 1994. He is Professor of Health Psychology at the University of Glasgow in Scotland and Past President of the International Academy of Suicide Research. Rory leads the Suicidal Behaviour Research Laboratory at the University of Glasgow, one of the leading suicide and self-harm research groups in the UK. He has published widely in the field of suicide and self-harm, particularly on the psychological processes which precipitate suicidal behaviour and self-harm. He also acts as an advisor to a wide range of national and international organisations, including national governments, in the areas of suicide and self-harm.

Abstract. Since the onset of the Covid pandemic there has been concern about the short, medium and long-term impacts on population mental health. In this talk, drawing from the UK Covid-19 Mental Health and Wellbeing Study, as well as the wider research literature, I will describe the changes in mental health and wellbeing over the course of the pandemic. I will also outline some other ongoing work on suicide prevention research as well as discussing the opportunities to mitigate the risk of the longer term impacts of Covid-19 and its consequences on suicide risk.

Youth Suicide Prevention across Settings

Jo Robinson

Prof. Jo Robinson leads the suicide prevention research unit at Orygen in Melbourne, Australia. Her work focuses on developing and testing novel interventions specifically targeted at vulnerable young people in a range of settings. She is leading a number of studies including the development of the #chatsafe guidelines, the first evidence-based best practice guidelines for safe peer-peer communication about suicide online, a large-scale school-based study operating across north-west Melbourne, and the establishment of a self-harm monitoring program in emergency departments in Victoria. She also has a keen interest in policy development and has led the development of two major policy reports and is regularly called upon to advise both state and federal governments.

Abstract. Rates of both suicide and self-harm are increasing among young people in Australia and internationally. Despite a growing body of intervention research there is little evidence regarding what does and does not work in youth suicide prevention. A common framework in suicide prevention classifies interventions as universal, selective or indicated. Universal interventions target whole populations regardless of risk; selective interventions target subgroups who may be at elevated risk and indicated interventions target people already displaying suicidal or self-harming behaviour and evidence tells us that interventions should span the full spectrum of approaches. We also know that youth suicide prevention activities need to operate in a range of settings, that reflects the needs and wishes of young people. In this session I will present up to date data on the rates of, and risk factors for, suicide and self-harm in young people. I will then provide a snapshot of work underway in the Youth Suicide Prevention Research Group at Orygen in Melbourne. This will include data from studies that span universal, selective and indicated interventions and that are being conducted in a range of settings, including in health services, schools and on-line. The presentation will conclude with a summary of findings to date and recommendations for ways forward for youth suicide prevention.

Bereavement in Difficult Times

Vita Poštuvan

Assoc. prof. Vita Poštuvan works as a researcher and Deputy Head of the Slovene Centre for Suicide Research (UP IAM) and Department of Psychology (FAMNIT) at the University of Primorska. She leads the work related to clinical-research and public-health interventions in suicidology, bereavement, crisis interventions and psychotherapy. She has participated in major European and Slovenian studies in the field of (public) mental health, suicidology and psychology, which were published in international journals. She has worked at the National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry (NCNP) in Tokyo, Japan as well as in the Suicide Research Group, Department for Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy, Medical University of Vienna, Austria, as a fellow researcher. Her professional work is also focused on psychological counselling, psychotherapy and prevention. As a psychological counsellor and cognitive-behavioural therapist she offers psychological support for students and individuals and implements mindfulness-based cognitive therapy. She is a member of national unit for psychological research within the civil protection.

Abstract. Death and suicide are inseparable from grief. As we know, bereavement is a process of coming to terms with the loss of a loved one, full of difficult emotional challenges. One of the most important elements in this process are the support of people in the social network, community, and systems. These are usually expressed through rituals around death. In suicide cases, bereaved people often feel that there is less community support because of the stigma surrounding the cause of death. Bereaved people feel that those around them express their condolences with 'empty words,' distance, or fear that the bereaved will blurt out their emotions. Therefore, avoidance and a lack of authentic support is a common experience of bereaved people after a suicide. In the time of the Covid-19 pandemic, this is even more evident. Many systems, such as schools or places of employment, which often provided a natural way to connect with others and give the bereaved opportunity for meaningful interaction, were closed for extended periods of time. This has implications for complications in the grieving process, such as prolonged grief disorder (PGD) or complicated grief (CG).

Mental Pain in Suicidal Individuals of the New Millennium

Maurizio Pompili

Prof. Maurizio Pompili, M.D., is Full Professor and Chair of Psychiatry as part of the Faculty of Medicine and Psychology at Sapienza University in Rome, Italy, where he received his M.D. degree and completed his training in psychiatry (both summa cum laude). He is also the director of University Psychiatric Clinic, the director of Suicide Prevention Center at Sant'Andrea Hospital in Rome. Prof. Maurizio Pompili was also part of the Community at McLean Hospital – Harvard Medical School, the USA, where he received a fellowship in Psychiatry. He is the recipient of American Association of Suicidology's 2008 Shneidman Award.

Abstract. Among the constructs used to describe the wish to die, a simple but extraordinary model has proved, for its straightforwardness, to be useful in describing the suicidal mind. Edwin Shneidman first posited that the suicidal individual experiences unbearable psychological pain (psychache) or suffering and that suicide might be, at least in part, an attempt to escape from this suffering. Shneidman considered psychache to be the main ingredient of suicide. According to this model, suicide is an escape from intolerable suffering, emphasizing that suicide is not as a movement toward death but rather as an escape from intolerable emotion, unendurable or unacceptable anguish. Experiencing negative emotions, with an internal dialogue making the flow of consciousness painful and leading the individual to the ultimate conclusion, may be related to the fact that, if tormented individuals could somehow stop consciousness and still live, they would opt for that solution. Suicide occurs when that individual deems the psychache to be unbearable. The author will describe new results on a multi-centre observational study involving patients who were administered a battery of tests assessing suicidal ideation and behaviour, mental pain, depression and childhood maltreatment. Results point to the fact that suicide attempters (compared to non-attempters) had higher odds of reporting worse psychological pain and suicidal intent with/without a specific plan. They also had higher odds of having a personality disorder and major depression. Contrary to our hypotheses, higher degrees of childhood trauma were not associated with more severe mental pain scores. The author will also cover the role of mental pain during the time of the pandemic.

Physical Disorders and Suicide

Annette Erlangsen

Prof. Annette Erlangsen is an Associate Professor and Leader of Danish Research Institute for Suicide Prevention at the Research Unit of Mental Health Centre Copenhagen, Denmark. She holds an Adjunct Associate Professorship at the Department of Mental Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in the USA and at the Department of Regional Health Research, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark. Prof. Erlangsen's research interests include suicide in older adults, bereaved by suicide, affected by suicide attempt, and psychosocial interventions for people at risk of suicide as well as research applied to record linkage data. She has published numerous papers in peer reviewed journals as well as book chapters and editorials.

Abstract. Numerous studies have confirmed associations between physical disorders and suicide. Although mental disorders consistently have been emphasized as a risk factor for suicide, only around half of all people who die by suicide have been in contact with mental health providers. It is, therefore, vital to identify other markers of suicide. A substantial percentage of people who died by suicide have been in treatment for physical disorders, for instance, 14% of all persons dying by suicide have previously been diagnosed with a neurological disorder. Identification of high-risk groups among somatic patients might prove to be a feasible way to reach target groups that we would otherwise miss. The aim of this lecture will be to provide an overview of the association between different major physical disorders and suicide based on recent international evidence in this field as well as examine the support for different causal mechanisms and explore venues of prevention.

LMICs, Pandemic & Suicide

Murad Khan

Prof. Murad Khan is a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan. He received his basic medical degree (MBBS) in Karachi, Pakistan and did his residency training (General and Old Age Psychiatry) in UK where he obtained membership of Royal College of Psychiatrists, UK. Prof. Murad Khan has been researching suicidal behaviour in Pakistan over the last few decades. His areas of interest include the role of socio-cultural and religious factors in suicidal behaviours. He conducted the first psychological autopsy study in Pakistan and one of the few in the Islamic world.

Abstract. The current Covid-19 is a serious global public health emergency that has both physical and mental health consequences. It has been hypothesized that the pandemic may lead to increase in suicide rates, due to various factors: fear, anxiety, uncertainty, loss, bereavement, increased unemployment and loss of livelihood amongst other factors. But it is also possible that increased family time, connectedness and mutual support may mitigate the effects of risk factors of suicide. The mental health and suicide-related consequences of the pandemic might vary depending on how countries' health and public health systems respond to it. The health and mental health systems of low and middle-income countries (LMIC) are being severely challenged, as pre-pandemic most LMICs already had poor health and mental health systems. Other factors in LMICs that have an adverse effect on mental health include social effects of banning religious gatherings (esp. funerals), an increase in domestic violence and the millions of migrant workers who lost their livelihoods overnight. Most LMICs do not have any safety welfare nets. Stigma and ostracism of Covid patients has lead to their and their families' social exclusion. All these factors are likely to lead to compromised mental health, with a possible increase in suicidal behaviors. Unfortunately, the absence of good surveillance systems in most LMICs means that any change in the pattern of suicidal behaviors will be difficult to assess. It is imperative that LMICs use the opportunity to improve their health systems, increase investment in mental health, develop a national mental health and suicide preventive strategies. At the very least there is urgent need to develop robust surveillance systems to monitor the patterns of suicide and self-harm in LMICs.

Suicide in Pandemia

Silvia Pelàez

Dr. Silvia Pelàez is the founder of the NGO Ultimo Recurso, the first suicide prevention institution in Uruguay. She is also the creator of the first suicide prevention helpline in her country. She and her team are specialists in engaging community members in suicide prevention. She trains leaders to identify suicidal situations in the community and create rescue networks with health professionals, religious leaders, teachers, police officers and others.

Abstract. The aim of the lecture is to notice that Covid-19 is not the first pandemic in our history. To see the century XXI advantages will help us to accept our pain. We also remind public some tips to help. We also would like express a philosophical point of view about pandemia, suicide and life and death.

Trauma and Suicide: The Impact of Direct and Secondary Exposure

Nina Krohne and Meta Lavrič

Nina Krohne is a researcher at University of Primorska, Andrej Marusic Institute, Slovene Centre for Suicide Research, where she participates in the implementation of current international and national research and intervention projects in the field of suicidal behaviour and mental health. During the pandemic, she was involved in several research projects, aimed at assessing mental health of various target groups and cooperated in providing psychological support for students in distress and mindfulness courses to general population. She is a PhD candidate and as part of her doctoral dissertation, she studies suicidal behaviour among women with experience of intimate-partner violence. She is a teaching assistant at the Faculty of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Informational Technology.

Meta Lavrič is a young researcher at the Slovene Centre for Suicide Research, where she participates in the implementation of current international and national research and intervention projects in the field of mental health and suicidality. She is also a teaching assistant at the University of Primorska (Faculty of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Information Technologies) and at the University of Maribor (Faculty of Arts). In her PhD research she focuses mainly on the gatekeepers – their mental health, professional quality of life and a sense of competence in working with suicidal individuals. She is also interested in the use of cognitive-behavioural and mindfulness techniques in mental health interventions for gatekeepers.

Abstract. Various traumatic events have a role in predicting suicidal behaviour. In this presentation we will focus on direct and secondary exposure to traumatic stress, with an emphasis on trauma in interpersonal relationships and trauma related to violent events. More specifically, we will discuss the implications of direct traumatic exposure in intimate-partner violence and of secondary traumatic exposure in gatekeepers working with people who experienced trauma. Exposure to traumatic events can result in long lasting psychological consequences, including post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety. These psychological outcomes are related to increased risk of suicidal behaviour. The role of mental health problems as a consequence of traumatic experiences in predicting suicide will be discussed in this presentation. We will also discuss the role of trauma in suicidal risk through the

lens of the interpersonal theory of suicide by Thomas Joiner, specifically the role of trauma in the presence of thwarted belongingness, perceived burdensomeness and acquired capability for suicide. Treating trauma-related suicidality often requires approaches helping a sufferer to overcome the traumatic experiences. Thus, we will raise certain specifics of suicide prevention interventions when working with people who experienced or are experiencing direct or secondary trauma exposure.

Media and Suicide

Thomas Niederkrotenthaler

Prof. Thomas Niederkrotenthaler is associate professor of public health and research group leader for suicide prevention research at Medical University Vienna, Austria. He has worked in several roles within the Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) in recent years. He has also been involved in revising IASP's funding strategy to emphasize the need to diversify funding to improve and sustain financial and organizational health. Prof. Thomas Niederkrotenthaler has also continuously contributed to the areas he is most interested in, namely communications and media. He has led efforts to develop a communications strategy for IASP activities during Covid-19, has contributed to linking IASP activities with those of the International Suicide Prevention Research Collaboration, and has continuously contributed to briefings on suicide-related media events, for example.

Abstract. Research in the area of media reporting of suicide has a long tradition, and most emphasis has been put exclusively on harmful media potentials (the Werther effect). In recent years, the evidence of increases in suicide subsequent to sensationalist media coverage has substantially increased. Simultaneously, first evidence for the positive roles of portrayals of suicide prevention have emerged as well (the Papageno effect). This presentation will give an overview of recent developments in the field of media and suicide research. The presentation will be a selective review of studies in the field, covering reviews and meta-analytic approaches; content analyses in various media settings; time series analyses; classic pre- after designs to assess associations of media reports with suicide rates, as well as randomized controlled trials conducted with various audiences. There is strong evidence today that media portrayals focusing on suicide methods that are largely non-consistent with media guidelines result in increases in suicidal behaviours, the Werther effect. Strongest evidence comes for celebrity reporting. New evidence has also emerged for selected fictional depictions of suicide. Recent research clearly suggests that both, specific media contents, as well as audience characteristics, play an essential role in suicide-related media effects. Particularly vulnerable individuals who identify with suicidal characters appear most prone to experience media effects, and the type of effect can be an increase or decrease of suicidal ideation, depending on specific me-

dia contents. Specifically, portrayals of coping with and managing adversity, and featuring help resources, appear to have beneficial effects. Although there are still important gaps in knowledge, the evidence for media effects on suicide and suicidal ideation has clearly increased in recent years. Collaborations with media professionals across media types need to be established, preventive aspects promoted, and these collaborations need to be evaluated.

Covid-19 Era Healthcare-Worker Suicide Prevention

Lai Fong Chan

Prof. Chan Lai Fong is currently Associate Professor of Psychiatry & Consultant Psychiatrist at the National University of Malaysia. She trained in psychiatry at the National University of Malaysia and completed a Clinical Fellowship in Mood & Anxiety Disorders at the University of Toronto, followed by a Master of Science in Affective Neuroscience at Maastricht University. Prof. Chan's research interests are in the area of gene-environment, as well as socio-cultural interactions in suicidal behavior among adolescents, young adults and high-risk clinical populations i.e. treatment-resistant depression, bipolar disorder & SLE. She was recently awarded the IASP 2017 De Leo Fund Award for Outstanding Research on Suicidal Behaviours in Developing Countries.

Abstract. As front-liners bearing the brunt of the Covid-19 pandemic, health-care workers have significant risk of psychological distress and suicidal behaviour. Health-care worker suicide risk may be exacerbated by pre-existing or emergent mental health conditions, occupational stressors, organizational inadequacies, socio-economic and gender disparities. Nevertheless, resilience and post-traumatic growth may arise from increased global collaboration and collective altruism. Potential interventions in the health (physical & psychological), as well as non-health spheres; and implications on suicide prevention in health-care workers will be discussed in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Public Response to Media Reporting on Suicide

Vanja Gomboc

Vanja Gomboc is a researcher at the UP IAM Slovene Centre for Suicide Research. She participates in the implementation of various national and international research and intervention projects in the field of mental health and suicidal behaviour. Her primary research focus is on suicide media coverage and the public response to media content about suicide. Thus, she cooperated in the preparation of the Recommendations for responsible reporting of suicide during a pandemic. As a member of the Department of Psychology and a teaching assistant in Faculty of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Information Technologies, University of Primorska, she also participates in the pedagogical process.

Abstract. Inadequate media coverage of suicide can have a negative impact on the media user, while responsible coverage of suicide can have a preventative effect on the user. This is particularly important at a time when new media (e.g., online media websites) are coming into focus as they offer greater involvement of the media user in the media article about suicide. In this way, new media transfer some of their role in preventing suicidal behaviour to new media users. Online media articles provide the opportunity to comment and thus interact with the administrators of the website, the author of the article, and other users. By analysing the comments posted under media articles about suicide, we can gain insight into perceptions and attitudes about suicide in society. Moreover, users also contribute significantly to the type of reporting on suicide and the opinions expressed on the topic in additional comments. The results of several studies confirm that there is a relationship between the type of coverage of a media article on suicide, the number of user comments, and their content. A comparison of comments under media articles on suicide published in different countries also provides information about the public's interest in addressing the issue: in some countries, comments reflect interest and engagement with the topic, while in other countries, comments show disinterest and disengagement with suicide prevention among the public. Considering that the style of media coverage of suicide is related to how users address the issue in their comments, caution is needed when writing a media article about suicide and clear procedures and rules are needed for commenting on such articles.

Nursing Homes or Besieged Castles: Suicide Temptation in the Covid-19 World

Diego De Leo

Prof. Diego De Leo (the head of Slovene Centre for Suicide Research and professor of Psychiatry at the Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia), is considered as one of top five world leading experts in suicidology by international professional and scientific public. His research expertise includes definitional issues in suicidology, culture and suicide, international trends and national suicide prevention programs. He received numerous world-renowned awards for his scientific work. His bibliography includes over 420 peer-reviewed articles and 180 book chapters.

Abstract. In Italy, Covid-19 developed with extreme virulence, presenting by 15 April 2021 an official number of deceased individuals well above 115,000 cases. Nursing homes, neglected for too long by government administrators, have paid a very high tribute to the lack of protective measures and social distancing that Covid-19 has imposed. In just twenty days, from 7 March to 26 March 2020, over 600 deaths occurred in nursing homes in the province of Bergamo (Lombardy), with a total accommodation capacity of 6,400 beds. To date, it has been calculated that almost a quarter of all residents in nursing home in northern Italy have died due to Covid-19, with a mortality of Lombardy nursing homes varying between 10 and 50% of all residents. In some cases, 3–4 guests died in a single day, in a single nursing home. During the first phases of the pandemic, nursing homes become like castles under siege, where guests could no longer leave and new guests could no longer enter, given the spread of the infection within these institutions. Residents seemed to face fear of disease and anguish for its threatening consequences with attitudes ranging from continuous praying (a rosary to pray was a frequent request from residents) to a nihilistic form of fatalism ('I can only hope death will come without too much suffering'). Health workers wearing protections, which reminded them that the virus was highly contagious, were very frightening. Doctors felt powerless and completely disoriented. They saw their colleagues become infected and die despite protections and cautions. Doctors were unable to make good clinical predictions: some patients seemed to be seriously ill but recovered, whereas others appeared to be quite fine then died. Swab tests were initially only done in hospitals, when patients became symptomatic. In any case, since doctors and other operators

got sick in rapid progression, guests felt progressively more fearful and abandoned. During the second wave, the situation changed completely. Italian nursing homes seemed then as abandoned castles, where the virus entered and settled, causing very serious damage. They were abandoned by the governments, which gave no money to helping the survival of residences for older people. Then, citizens accused those facilities of bad governance and inadequate treatment of residents. The staff – particularly nurses – abandoned them, with some moving to public hospitals, where the salary is much higher. Finally, nursing homes were also abandoned by universities and research institutions, which neglected their need for adequate clinical care. A huge number of Italians have lost their parents or relatives that were residents of nursing homes. Guilt feelings, sense of impotence, and legal battles are characterizing the aftermath of the first and second Covid waves.

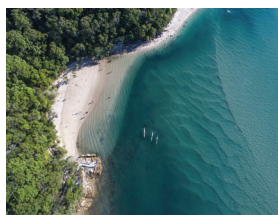
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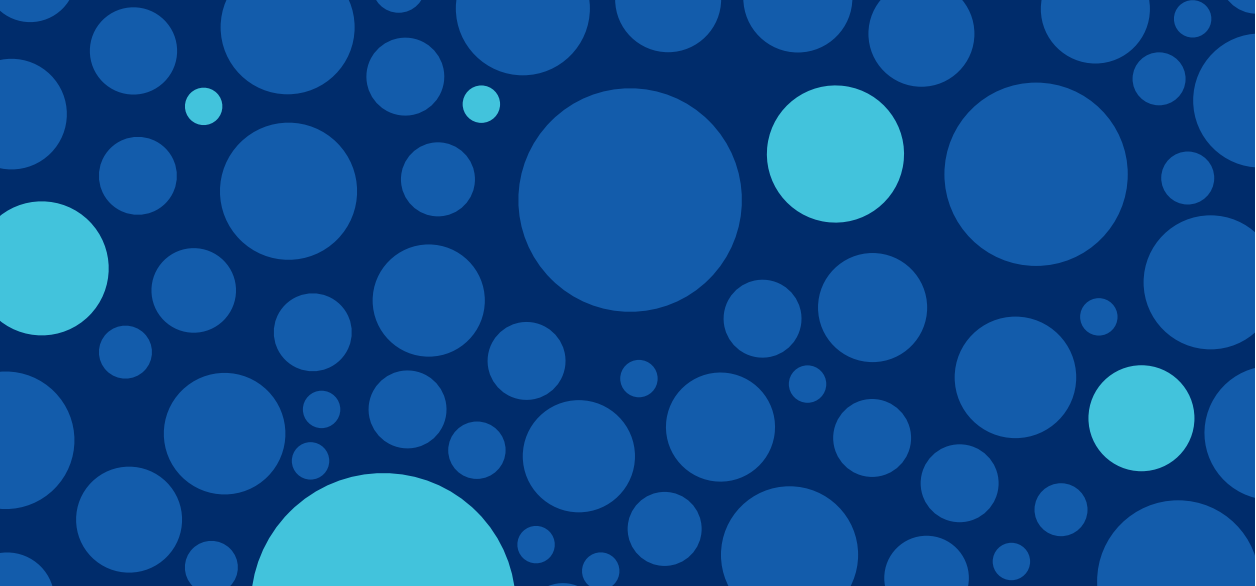
The International Association for Suicide Prevention's 31st World Congress will be held in Australia for the first time since 1997 and aims to provide a significant platform for those involved in suicide prevention; from academics and researchers, policy makers, to NGOs and those working in the community.

Suicide is a public health issue that affects individuals, families, workplaces and communities the world over. It remains a universal challenge with millions impacted by suicidal behaviour. Suicide is among the top 20 causes of death globally for people of all ages (approximately 800,000 per year, with over 3,000 in Australia). Indigenous peoples in Australia have among the highest global rates. Limited data means the true extent of suicidal behaviour remains hidden (approximately 20 attempted suicides per suicide) and suicide is far-reaching, leaving many affected and/or suffering intense grief (approximately 135 people per suicide). The reduction of suicide mortality is of global importance and a vital public health consideration.

The IASP World Congress is the primary global collaborative opportunity for expert thinking related to suicide and suicide prevention, bringing together academics, researchers, practitioners, those with lived experience, diverse backgrounds, and innovators associated with suicide prevention efforts or working within suicide prevention-related topics. The congress takes place on the Gold Coast, Queensland and virtually from 21st–24th September 2021. The Congress will be fully hybrid with the full programme available in person and virtually online.

For more information visit
www.iasp.info/goldcoast2021!



- 
- I follow my *intuition*,
 - I *imagine* more than ever,
 - I love to *innovate* ...



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